

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 OMB-01 PRS-01

DRC-01 /081 W

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R 141856Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1615

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMILTON 195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, BD

SUBJ: SURPLUS NAVY LEASED LAND BERMUDA. DISCUSSIONS
WITH GOB - CABINET SECRETARY GASCOIGNE (CSG)

REF: (1) HAMILTON 193 (2) HAMILTON 194

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL (1) MET WITH GASCOIGNE AUG. 12
TO REVIEW DISCUSSION OF PREVIOUS MEETING WITH GOB
REPS JULY 23. GASCOIGNE COMMENTS WHICH HE EMPHASIZED
WERE OFF RECORD AND PERSONALLY TO ME COVERED PRINCIPAL
POINTS LAST MEETING AS FOLLOWS: (A) GOB COUNTER-
PROPOSAL FOR TAKE OVER OF CAUSEWAY-BRIDGE-ROAD
COMPLEX LESS M&R FOR CAUSEWAY AND BRIDGE, PARA 4
REFTEL (1) - GASCOIGNE VOLUNTEERED (1) HE SAW NO
REASON WHY GOB SHOULD NOT ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR CAUSEWAY INCLUDING M&R ON THE SAME BASIS AS FOR
KINDLEY FIELD ROAD. HOWEVER, BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

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AND REPAIR WAS DIFFERENT MATTER. HE SAID HE HAS
ASSUMED ALTHOUGH M&R WOULD NOT BE GOB RESPONSIBILITY
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OPERATION OF BRIDGE WOULD BE THEIRS AND ASKED IF IT

INCLUDED BRIDGE OPERATORS COSTS. WE TOLD HIM IT DID.
(2) ON JURISDICTION PARA A(2) REFTEL(2) GOB, HE
SAID, NOT ANXIOUS TAKE OVER JURISDICTION MILITARY.
THIS COULD BE WORKED OUT TO MUTUAL SATISFACTION BOTH
PARTIES. (3) RE FERRY REACH ROAD ALTHOUGH TALKS WITH
POWER BOAT ASSOCIATION (PBA) INCONCLUSIVE HE DID TELL
THEM THAT NEXT YEAR THEY WOULD HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE
FOR SITE. CSG MADE POINT THAT GOB AND USG SHOULD DENY
PBA USE OF AREA NEXT YEAR AND IF GOB TOOK OVER AREA
IT WOULD MAINTAIN DENIAL POSITION. (B) LAND FOR NAVY
EAST END - GOB HAS LAND IN EAST END SOME OF IT
CLUTTERED WITH OLD BUILDINGS AND IT IS AWARE OF OTHER
LAND THAT CAN BE ACQUIRED. GASCOIGNE RAISED
POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING SMITHS ISLAND (61 ACRES) WHICH
IS ADJACENT NAVY EAST END HOLDINGS. HE SAID HE WOULD
ASK MINISTER FOR PLANNING VESEY (WHO ATTENDED JULY 23
SESSION) TO PREPARE PAPER FOR SUBMISSION TO US PRIOR

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TO NEXT MEETING WHICH WOULD LIST LAND AVAILABLE EAST
END BY LOCATION AND AREA. WE REPEATED OUR OFFER TO
FORWARD ALL DATA RE LAND AVAILABILITY TO HIGHER
AUTHORITY SOONEST. (C) LAND FOR GOB AT ANNEX - GOB
IS AWARE IN GENERAL TERMS OF PIECES WHICH WE ARE
CONSIDERING FOR RELINQUISHMENT, PARA 1C(1) AND(2)
REFTEL 2. GOB IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE AREAS
AT NEXT MEETING ALONG WITH THE FIRE STATION AND ACCESS
ROAD.

2. COMMENT: (A) GASCOIGNE PROBABLY REVEALED GOB
POSITION RE CAUSEWAY-BRIDGE-ROAD DURING OUR TALK.
HE DID NOT BAT AN EYE OR STOP TALKING WHEN WE
CONFIRMED COST OF BRIDGE OPERATORS WHICH HE RAISED
WOULD BE GOB EXPENSE. HE OFFERED COMMENT BERMUDA
SHOULD AFTERALL CONTROL ITS MAIN HIGHWAY AND ONLY
CONNECTION WITH EAST END GIVING HE ADDED DUE CONSIDERA-
TION MILITARY NECESSITIES AND PRIORITIES. WHILE OUR
GOAL IS HAVE GOB TAKE OVER ENTIRE COMPLEX INCLUDING
ALL M&R WE PROBABLY CANNOT GET GOB TO ACCEPT TOTAL
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BUT MAY HAVE TO SETTLE FOR GOB TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY

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INCLUDING M&R FOR CAUSEWAY AND ROAK AND OPERATION OF
THE BRIDGE. (B) GASCOIGNE MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE
TO GOB PLANNED USE OF THE NAVY ANNEX. HE DID SAY

THAT DURING TALKS WITH PBA HE HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY
OF STAGING RACING OFF NAVY ANNEX AND PBA HAD CONSIDERED
THAT LOCATION (LITTLE SOUND-PORT ROYAL BAY) A POSSI-
BILITY. THUS FAR GOB HAS MENTIONED LOW COST HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT AND A SPORTS CENTER AS POSSIBLE USES FOR
THE ANNEX. IT PUBLICLY, AT LEAST TO US, HAS
DISCOUNTED THE USE OF THE PENINSULAR AS A CONTAINER
PORT HAVING JUST ENLARGED ITS CONTAINER FACILITIES AT
HAMILTON WHICH WILL SUFFICE FOR SOME YEARS TO COME
OR SO THEY SAY. (C) GASCOIGNE'S AFFABLE WILLINGNESS
TO EXPLORE EAST END LAND AVAILABILITY MAY BE GESTURE
OR GENUINE ATTEMPT PROVIDE MORE LAND SO THAT ADDITIONAL
LAND AT WEST END MAY BECOME AVAILABLE TO GOB. ANNEX
IS LOCATED IN TWO PARISHES, SANDYS AND SOUTHAMPTON.
THESE TWO PARISHES SENT FOUR OF THE TEN OPPOSITION
PARTY MEMBERS TO PARLIAMENT LAST ELECTION SO LOCAL
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND IMPACT OF RECOVERY OF SOME

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OF ANNEX SHOULD NOT BE OVER LOOKED OR DISCOUNTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND, SURPLUS PROPERTY, LEASES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HAMILT00195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740224-0076
From: HAMILTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740849/aaaabppy.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (1) HAMILTON 193 (2) HAMILTON 194
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SURPLUS NAVY LEASED LAND BERMUDA. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB - CABINET SECRETARY GASCOIGNE (CSG)
TAGS: MILI, BD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005